

Grand opening for Adams

By Malcolm Pein

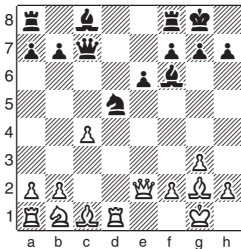
Magnus Carlsen made a miraculous escape from the clutches of Vladimir Kramnik, scraping through with a draw in the third round of the London Chess Classic. The pair retain the lead on 7/9. Michael Adams is second after comfortably outplaying Judit Polgar to reach 6/6. Levon Aronian flirted with a third straight defeat, but just held on, two pawns behind in a rook and pawn endgame against Anand. Gawain Jones held Hikaru Nakamura to a draw.

Michael Adams gained an advantage from the opening. Similar positions arise when White plays c3 and then c3-c4. Here Adams plays c2-c4 in one move and his bishop on g2 is all powerful:

M. Adams - J. Polgar

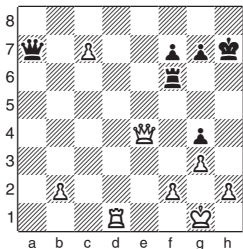
Sicilian Defence

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.Qe2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be7 8.Rd1! 0-0 (8...e5! 9.Nxe5 Nd4! 10.Qc4 Be6 winning the c2 pawn; 8...e5 9.Nc3) 9.d4! cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.Rxd4 Bf6 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.c4!

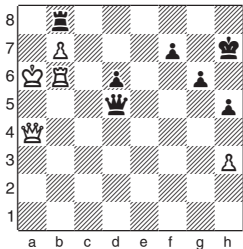


13...Nb4 14.Nc3 a6 (14...Bxc3 15.bxc3 Na6 16.Ba3 Nc5 17.Qe3! was pointed out by Stephen Gordon) 15.Bf4 e5

16.Be3 (Threat a3 Nc6 Nd5) **16...Be6 17.Nd5** (17.Rac1 Bxc4 18.Qf3 with threats of Ne4 and Na4 is even better) **17...Nxd5 18.cxd5 Bf5 19.d6 Qd7 20.Bb6 Rac8 21.Bc7 Bg4 22.Bf3 h5 23.Rac1 Rfe8 24.Bxg4 hxg4 25.Qe4** (The d6 pawn dominates, b7 and g4 are weak and the game is won for Adams) **25...Bg5** (25...b5 26.Qc6!) **26.Rc5 Bd8 27.Qxb7** (Threat is Qxc8!) **27...Re6 28.Rdd5 Rf6 29.Qxa6 Qf5 30.Qe2 Qb1+ 31.Rd1 Qxa2 32.Rxe5 Bxc7 33.Re8+ Rxe8 34.Qxe8+ Kh7 35.dxc7 Qa7 36.Qe4+ 1-0**



How did Gawain Jones escape from this position? Black to play and draw:



Answer:

16...Bxc3 17.bxc3 Na6 18.Qe3! was pointed out by Stephen Gordon) 15.Bf4 e5